

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 SR-02 ORM-01 DPW-01 FDRE-00

AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 TRSE-00

SAB-01 SAM-01 /088 W

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R 270620Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 779

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USMISSION GENEVA

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BEIRUT PASS UNIT BAGHDAD FOR INFO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, IZ, IR

SUBJ: KURDISH REFUGEES

REF: TEHRAN 2750

1. AMERICAN CONSUL TABRIZ, WHO IS PRESENTLY TOURING BORDER AREAS IN AZARBAIJAN, REPORTS INFLOW OF APPROXIMATELY 10,000 KURDS IN PAST TWO WEEKS, INCLUDING MANY FORMER PESH MERGA AND MEN OF MILITARY AGE NEVER BEFORE SEEN AMONG REFUGEE FLOW. IRANIAN OFFICIALS THERE STATE GOI DOES NOT INTEND TO FORCE KURDS BACK INTO IRAQ, NOR DO THEY KNOW OF PLAN TO DISPERSE KURDS THROUGHOUT IRAN.

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2. GROUP OF 20 WOMEN FROM IRAQI RED CROSS EXPECTED TO ARRIVE

REZAIEH MARCH 26. THEY ARE TO BE FLOWN IN GROUPS OF FIVE TO EACH OF FOUR MAJOR REFUGEE CAMPS AT ZIVEH AND RABAT IN WEST AZARBAIJAN, DEZFUL AND KURDESTAN. IRANIAN OFFICIALS THINK ONE OF THEIR AIMS IS TO ENCOURAGE RETURN OF REFUGEES TO IRAQ.

3. AMERICAN CONSUL REPORTS AREA OFFICIALS DOUBT THAT MANY WILL ELECT TO RETURN TO IRAQ, DUE IN PART TO INCREASING RUMORS OF IRAQI EXECUTION OF KURDS WHO HAVE SURRENDERED. GENERALLY REFUGEES ARE BITTER OVER IRANIAN ABANDONMENT OF BARZANI'S CAUSE BUT SEE IRAN AS THEIR ONLY REFUGE. EVIDENT PREPARATIONS TO IMPLEMENT TERMS OF ACCORD INDICATE IRANIANS SERIOUS ABOUT AGREEMENT AND INTEND TO UPHOLD THEIR END OF IT.

4. MEANWHILE, RADIO BAGHDAD BROADCAST HEARD HERE CLAIMED ELEVEN THOUSAND KURDS HAVE ALREADY ARRIVED BACK IN IRAQ FROM IRAN. WE BELIEVE FIGURE IS GREATLY EXAGGERATED AND PERHAPS CONFUSED WITH TOTAL NUMBER OF KURDS WHO HAVE SURRENDERED TO IRAQI FORCES.

5. A GENDARMERIE SOURCE TOLD GENMISH ADVISOR HE THINKS FROM 1,500 TO 3,000 KURDS MAY BE COMING ACROSS BORDER DAILY. THEY ARE MET ON IRAQI SIDE BY IRANIAN GUIDE, DISARMED AT BORDER AND GIVEN CREDIT FOR WEAPON SO THEY CAN GET IT BACK IF THEY DECIDED TO RETURN BEFORE BORDER CLOSES MARCH 31.
HELMS

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